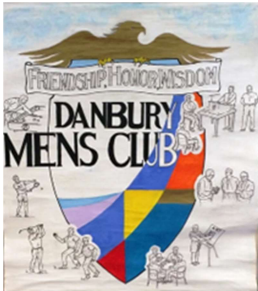


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| <p>Volume 1   Issue 2</p> <p>December, 2025</p> <p>Wayne Covill, Editor</p> <p><a href="mailto:covillw@yahoo.com">covillw@yahoo.com</a></p> |  | <p><b>GDAMC</b></p> <p><b>Winter Newsletter</b></p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

**"One kind word can warm three winter months."--  
Japanese Proverb**

## **Happy Holidays!**

The winds of winter are upon us, and nature snoozes beneath an ivory blanket, but the holiday lights sparkle, the fire warms, and friends soon gather to make merry and count their blessings!

Be sure to check on our website (<https://www.gdamc.org/>) for even more timely news and events!

We hope you'll find this newsletter interesting and helpful! Please let us know what you think about it! We are always looking for new ideas and contributors, photos, stories, poems, and events, so please don't

hesitate to email me with your critiques and/or suggestions.

## A Message From Our President:

### Holiday Traditions

Traditions are the threads that connect us to our past, shaping the way we celebrate and remember the holidays each year.

One of the most important Christmas traditions in Poland—often considered the most meaningful evening of the year—is the celebration of *wigilia* (pronounced vee-ghee-lee-ah), the Christmas Eve dinner. An extra place is always set at the table to show that any unexpected guest is welcome. With the exception of fish, the dishes served at *wigilia* are vegetarian, honoring the long-standing custom of

fasting on the day before Christmas.



My family has experienced many versions of this tradition over the years. When I was young, we celebrated at my grandparents' home on my mom's side. Later, it moved to

my Uncle Dom's restaurant, where as many as 40 of us gathered (1986 photo). Over time, as relatives passed, moved away, or could no longer attend, the celebration shifted again—first to my uncle's house with a

smaller group, and now, for the most part, it lives on as a cherished memory.

Yes, holiday traditions change, and some may even fade, but remembering them at this time of year can bring a smile, sometimes a tear, and hopefully a sense of inner joy.

Whatever holidays you celebrate and whatever traditions are special to you, may they bring you peace, happiness, and meaningful moments with loved ones. Thank you for your friendship and camaraderie throughout the year. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a bright, healthy New Year ahead. — Paul

## Poinsettia Helpers



One of the great activities our club does each year is help the Women's Club in their annual Poinsettia Fundraiser. This year the plants were unpacked and distributed on Tuesday, December 2. It is a process that starts at 6AM in the morning and goes into the late

afternoon.

The proceeds from this fundraiser go to local charities and to scholarships for local high school seniors. Last year the Women's Club distributed over \$25,000!

## **GDAMC New Members (September-November)**

Our membership is growing. Welcome to our new members who have joined recently:

**Larry Fannin**

**Bob Jano**

**Jeff Koproski**

**Ernie Fiore**

**Jim Kiszka**

### **Activities Spotlight: Fishing**

**One of the newest activity groups, the fishing group spent a beautiful September morning on Candlewood Lake aboard Ed Albanetti's boat. While the fish weren't quite as interested in being caught as we were in catching them, there's no such thing as a bad day of fishing! Highlights included camaraderie, a great lunch courtesy of Mark Miller, looking for eagle's nests, and spotting a bobcat on the shore of Vaughn's Neck.**

**Activity Leaders: Send me photos and info about one of your group's "special" days to be highlighted here each quarter.**



## Friday Bowling is a Blast..... Sometimes!

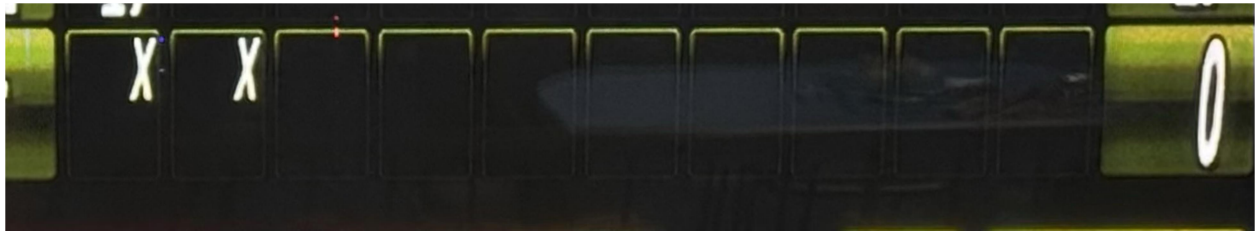
As you know, the Men's Club bowling activity is year-round on Friday's. We get scores all over the place, even a few 200 games. Below is the same bowler on the same day. Guess which of his game scores was higher. Guess the final scores. The results are at the end of the newsletter. No peeking!

### Game 1



Game 1 does not start very well having knocked down just 2 pins after two frames. However, during this game the player does have a double.

## Game 2



In Game 2, our bowler opens with a double. Is this the start of a 300 game? What is your guess for the final score for this game?



## Winter Meeting Dates and Featured Speakers

| Meeting Date | Scheduled Speaker                                                                              |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 3   | Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves will provide us with a State of the City.                          |
| January 14   | Tania Porta, owner of the Cornell Memorial Funeral Home will talk to us on 'preparation'.      |
| January 28   | Norm Cover, paleontologist, will talk to us about the Monsters of the Western Interior Seaway. |
| February 25  | Suzanne Lynch, will discuss how to detect Financial Fraud.                                     |

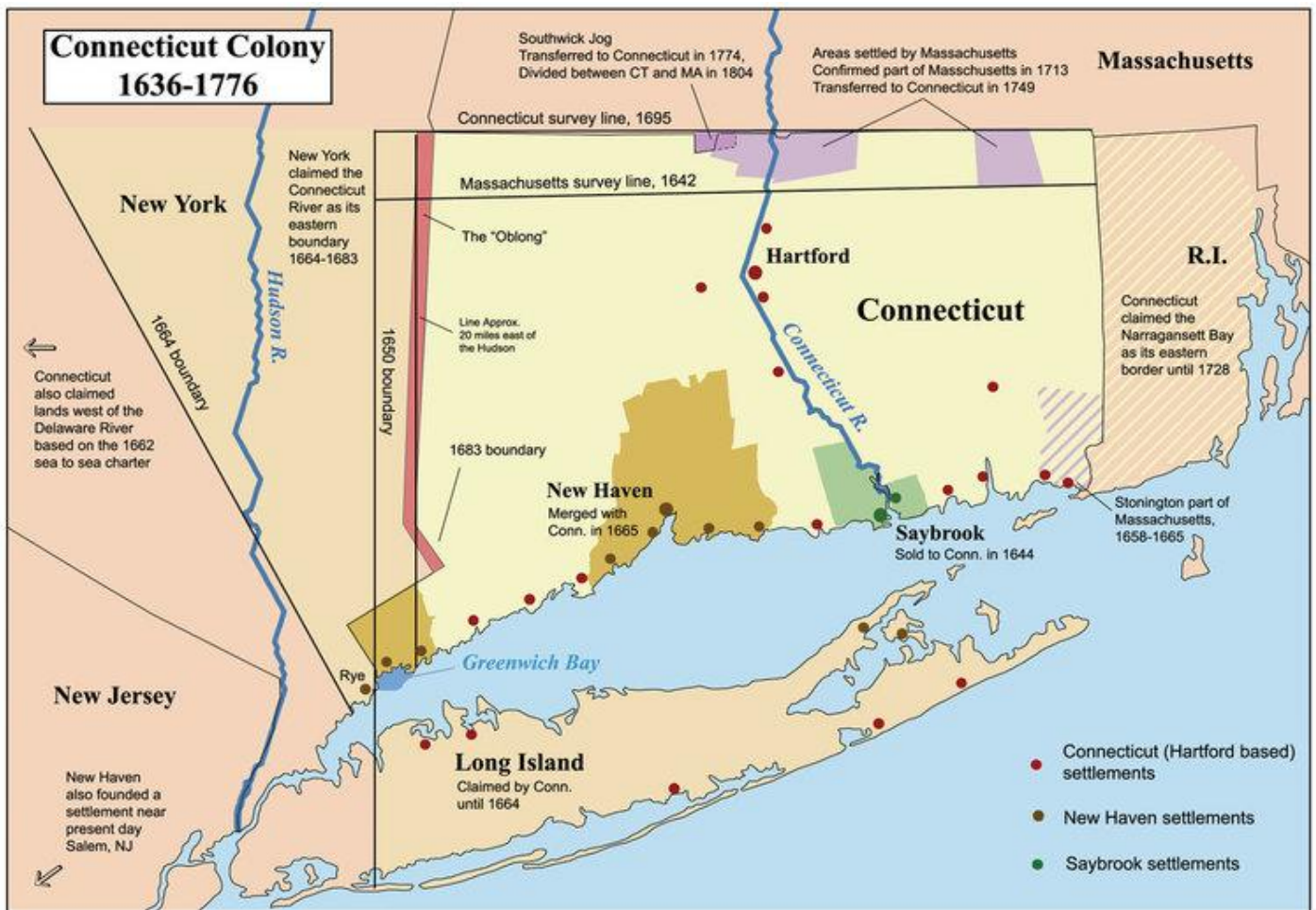
## Upcoming Special Events!

| Date        | Event                                                                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 10 | Holiday Party, Party, Party!!! And it is only \$5 (cash only) at the door. 11 AM - 1:30 PM |
| February 11 | Valentine's Day Luncheon at 'Café on the Green'                                            |

## Local History: The “Oblong”

Have you ever wandered through “The Oblong?” Odds are you have, and never even knew it! Follow this link to read more about the fascinating history of Connecticut’s western border:

<https://www.colonialwarsct.org/1731.htm>



<https://www.ctmq.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/image-asset.jpeg>



## Some **Fun** Things to do **this** Winter:

### December:

- 9/25-12/14 Glow Wild Lantern Festival @ Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport <https://www.beardsleyzoo.org/glow-wild.html>
- 11/28-12/28 Holiday Lights '25 at Lake Compounce <https://www.lakecompounce.com/discover-the-park/holiday-lights>
- 12/02 Ridgefield Playhouse, Chris Botti [ridgefieldplayhouse.org](http://ridgefieldplayhouse.org)
- 12/06 Danbury Music Center, Concert Chorus & Chamber Orchestra [www.danburymusiccentre.org](http://www.danburymusiccentre.org)
- 12/06 Danbury Music Center, The Spirit of the Holidays [www.danburymusiccentre.org](http://www.danburymusiccentre.org)
- 12/06 Mad Hatter Chorus, 3PM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 18 Clapboard Ridge Rd.
- 12/06 12/07 – WCSU Holiday Pops <https://www.wcsu.edu/events/organizer/departments-of-music/>
- 12/06 12/07 – Putnam Chorale, Songs of Mystery and Wonder [www.putnamchorale.org/next-event](http://www.putnamchorale.org/next-event)
- 12/07 Ridgefield Chorale, Holiday Pops [www.ridgefieldchorale.org](http://www.ridgefieldchorale.org)
- 12/12 – 12/13 Ridgefield Playhouse, The Nutcracker
- 12/12 – 12/14 Danbury Music Center, The Nutcracker
- 12/21 Paramount Hudson Valley Theatre, Peekskill, The Nutcracker [Boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com](mailto:Boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com)

### January:

- 01/18 The Palace Theatre, Danbury, The Corvettes

[www.thepalacedanbury.com](http://www.thepalacedanbury.com)

- 01/21 Ridgefield Playhouse, The Bacon Brothers

[www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org](http://www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org)

### **February:**

- 02/21 Ridgefield Playhouse, Chazz Palminteri, A Bronx Tale

- 02/21 Tarrywile Mansion, Murder at the Mansion

[www.tarrywile.com](http://www.tarrywile.com)

- 2/5 – 3/8 ACT Theater, Ridgefield, Frozen

<https://www.actofct.org/season>

### **March:**

- 03/15 Danbury Music Centre, Spring Concert

[www.danburymusiccentre.org](http://www.danburymusiccentre.org)

- **Music At The Ridge** [www.musicattheridge.org](http://www.musicattheridge.org) Various Performers,  
Sundays @ 4PM, 24 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury

**Looking for even more fun events a little farther  
afield? Visit:**

<https://www.visitnewengland.com/all/events/events/>

<https://destinationdutchess.com/calendar>

<https://travelhudsonvalley.com/events/category/putnam/>

<https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/things-to-do/events/>



Looking to give away or locate some “stuff?” Post your unwanted items and/or your wants on **Buy Nothing**: <https://buynothingproject.org/>

You can also email your Freebies giveaways or wants to [covilw@yahoo.com](mailto:covilw@yahoo.com) to be listed here as well.

### **Buying A Pet**, by Bill Hutchinson

“Now I know, son, I wanted a pet when I was your age, but you have to be careful. They aren’t all alike. That one over there, he’s good for protection. Very useful at factory sites. Can get real mean. That one running all over the place – she would drive your mother crazy. Now

the middle-size one - that's what I call a mighty fine fellow. I bet you could play with him for hours on end; throw a stick, take walks with him in the park - they have special parks for them, you know. Go over to him. Give him a pat on the head. They love that sort of thing - almost as much as treats."

The youngster went over to the prospective pet while the older one went over to talk to the one in charge.

"You'll need a cage for him," the one in charge said. "He's not potty trained yet. Don't feed him anything too big. Ones that size choke easily. In case he starts acting up, I know the name of a good obedience trainer - though you seldom need one with that breed. All-in-all he's a pretty good choice - not like those from the mills. They don't care how often the female breeds - or with whom. And don't forget to neuter the little fellow."

They took the middle-size pet, and as they were going home, the young one looked at his new playmate and said, "I learned that these 'people' once ran the planet. How was that possible?"

The older machine simply said, "We were smarter."

### **Fun Fact:**

- **A cloud weighs around a million tons.** A cloud typically has a volume of around  $1\text{km}^3$  and a density of around  $1.003\text{kg per m}^3$  -

that's a density that's around 0.4 per cent lower than the air surrounding it ([this is how they are able to float](#)).

## Wheel It Forward

**Wheel It Forward** is a new kind of community library lending out durable medical equipment at no cost. (Suggested donations are always welcome!)

**Wheel Chairs**

**Toilet Risers**

**Ice Machines**

**Knee Scooters**

**Commodes**

**Hospital Beds**

**Canes**

**Rolling  
Walkers**

**Plus More!**

**Crutches**

**Rollators**

**Shower Chairs**

With locations in Stamford, Bridgeport-Stratford, Newtown, and soon at North Haven, they also accept donations of unwanted, serviceable equipment which are then lent out along with new equipment.

**Phone: 203-652-8600**

**Website: [WheelItForwardUSA.org](http://WheelItForwardUSA.org)**

## Bowling Results:

Game 1 started off slow with just 2 pins down after 2 frames. But then

the bowler has strikes in frames 3 and 4. Unfortunately he also has 3 splits in frames 5, 8 and 9 and finishes with a 98.

After opening with a double in Game 2, our member bowler has one additional strike and a spare in the last 8 frames and finishes with a 120.

If you guessed Game 2 for the higher score, you are correct. How close did you come in guessing the final scores for each game?

**Look for the next issue on or about March 11th!**



Our “Home Away From Home!”